

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

SKETCHES

OF

LEGISLATORS

AND

STATE OFFICERS

1876-1878.

BY JOHN CARDWELL.

AUSTIN, TEXAS:
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1876.

FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT.

Counties.—Falls, Milam and Bell.

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM W. LANG was born in Wayne county, Mississippi, May 15, 1829 ; was educated at Oakland College, in that State ; married in 1853 ; came to Texas in 1860 ; settled in Falls county, engaged in planting, and has continued his residence and agricultural pursuits in the same locality.

Mr. Lang's public career commenced in Mississippi at the age of 21, when he was a candidate for a seat in the Legislature. Though defeated, he won a State reputation as a speaker, and received the commendation of the general public.

Mr. Lang joined the Confederate States Army, and held the rank of captain of cavalry ; won so completely by his conduct the esteem and confidence of his command and associate officers as to have them unanimously offer him, though a junior captain, the position of colonel of his regiment. This he declined, feeling unwilling to so far over-

step the rules and usages that gave position to his seniors in command.

At the close of the war he returned to his farm, and went earnestly to work to retrieve his fallen fortunes, but in 1873 he was partially removed from this interest and transferred to a wider field for his genius. The Order of the Patrons of Husbandry had moved like an immense wave over the United States, and, upon the establishment of the order in Texas, Mr. Lang was called upon to preside over its destinies in this State. He has devoted himself earnestly to the spread of its influences, and has been elected and re-elected, as Master of the Texas State Grange, at all the annual conventions of the order. During these years it is known that he has been repeatedly called upon to become a candidate for important State offices, but he has persistently declined to allow his name to be thus used, appearing to have no ambition in a political way. He received the nomination of the Democratic Convention of his district for a seat in the lower house of the Fifteenth Legislature, and consenting to serve his people, was elected without opposition by about 5500 votes. As a legislator he stands

high ; neither swerves to the right or to the left, seeking popular favor, and often taking position directly antagonistic to what would appear to be his personal advancement. By this fearless and impersonal discharge of duty he has won from among his late enemies the warmest friendships and lasting admiration.

Mr. Lang resides with his family at Marlin, the county seat of Falls county.
